

Transportation Team
October 25, 2012
4:30-6:00

Members Present: Doug Carnrick, Peter Garrett, Joel Greenwood, Elery Keene, Jim Wood, Linda Woods, Scott Workman

The meeting started with a historical retrospective of transportation and morphed into a discussion about the future of funding for highways. Scott summarized the Highway Corridor Priorities that the State uses. Lower road standards (pavement widths, speed limits, shoulders, etc.) for certain types of roads have been established.

Scott hopes to include these items in the address at the Waterville City Council meeting on November 20.

- Bus service
- Bike/ped activities
- Benefits of reduction in road widths
- Lower speed limits

The Waterville comprehensive planning session on transportation will occur on Monday, October 29 at 7:00 PM in Waterville City Council Chambers.

Present these concerns as part of Sustain Mid Maine Coalition.

Note: The above information was changed after the meeting. The outline below still applies to the Waterville City Council meeting. As far as is known at this time, the comprehensive planning session will be in January.

Action Items (now applicable to the November 20 meeting):

- Jim—vision for public transit for the City
- Peter—bike/ped friendliness & trails
- Scott—savings related to road construction
- Joel & Chris—land use issues
- Include rail concerns
- Need to capture the importance of density along corridors (encourage apartment creation)
- Jim, Scott, Joel, Peter: attend this meeting
- Peter: contact Fred Stubbart about speaking for rail

Fairfield's comprehensive planning meeting discussing transportation is November 15 at 6:30 at the Community Building.

Action Item:

Jim, Scott, Joel, Peter: attend this meeting

Jim thinks the Council needs to focus on the challenges of having an aging population. Waterville has the most elderly population in the state with the same distinction. This is more about concepts and vision: Where does Waterville want to see itself and how to make itself attractive?

Jim knows it is important to create an environment where people can live, work, and thrive. Joel recently learned younger people are choosing to live, work, and socialize where they can get along without a private vehicle. People with low wages can't afford to own a car.

Important to create a list of recommendations for this presentation:

Action Item:

Jim, Scott, Joel, Peter: create 3-4 power point slides of the key points & get these to Jim by Friday, November 2

Elery talked to Jim Quinn, superintendent at Maine Central Railroad, about the inter-modal movement of freight. Although Jim said no comment, Maine Central Railroad is purchasing a lot of flat cars (called pigs). Scott stated there is no rail connection to Eastport.

Scott is studying parcel data for the City. Value per acre equals a picture of worth based on sizes. In downtown the value is important. The value decreases in neighborhoods. Filling in vacant spaces increases the values and increases the base of taxation. He will present this and its connection to transportation when speaking to the Council. Joel learned that they are decreasing the size of lots and increasing density.

Jim presented a draft of the brochure for the *Somerset Explorer*.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, November 15 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**